

**Remarks**Status of the Claims

The Office rejected Claims 1-4 and 7-30 on various grounds. Applicant has canceled rejected Claims 1, 12-17, and 19-29, and amended Claims 2-4, 7-11, 18, and 30 to depend from allowable Claim 5.

The Office objected to Claims 1-11 as containing an informality. Applicant has rewritten Claims 5 and 6 in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim, and correcting the informality noted by the Office.

Rejections

Applicant respectfully traverses the Office's rejections, and reserves the right to prosecute the rejected Claims in continuing applications. However, in the interest of expeditious issuance, Applicant has canceled rejected Claims 1, 12-17, and 19-29, and amended Claims 2-4, 7-11, 18, and 30 to depend from allowable Claim 5. Applicant has added new Claims 31-40, which new claims depend from allowable Claim 6 and recite the additional limitations in original Claims 2-4, 7-11, 18, and 30. Applicant submits that independent Claims 5 and 6, and Claims 2-4, 7-11, 18, and 30 and 31-40 depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Objection

The Office indicated that the wording "determining a similar sample temporal variation of components of measurements of samples that are similar to the measurement of the sample" was unclear. Rewritten Claims 4 and 5 have the first "similar sample" wording deleted. The deleted words were intended to identify the specific temporal variation being determined in step b): specifically, the temporal variation relating to similar samples. The wording of step a) now parallels that of step b). Applicant submits that the corresponding objection has been cured.